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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lawrence A. Chaletsky on 09/21/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit comprising: a gastrostomy catheter including a flexible, hollow tube reinforced with filaments, a deformable intragastric retainer positioned at the trailing end of said tube, a tapered member positioned at the leading end of said tube for retaining the leading end portion of a guide wire inserted from the leading end hole thereof, and a housing sheath for deforming and housing said intragastric retainer; and

an infection-preventing sheath including a flexible, hollow tubular body, and a socket member positioned at the trailing end of said tubular body for retaining said intragastric retainer, to removably sheathe said gastrostomy catheter and wherein said infection-preventing sheath further includes a hook member disposed near the leading end portion of its inner wall for hooking said housing sheath; whereby the intragastric retainer is pulled out while leaving the housing sheath in the infection-preventing sheath.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to Claim 2, wherein said housing sheath is made of a slender, hollow, flexible tubular body.

5. (Currently Amended) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to Claim 4 2, wherein the gastrostomy catheter is provided with filaments at its thick portion.

6. (Original) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to Claim 5, wherein said filaments are disposed generally in parallel with the longitudinal direction of the thick portion of the gastrostomy catheter,

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7. (Original) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to Claim 6, wherein said filaments are buried generally in parallel with the longitudinal direction of the thick portion of the gastrostomy catheter.

8. (Previously Presented) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to Claim 5, wherein said filaments are buried at a predetermined spacing in the circumferential direction of the thick portion of the gastrostomy catheter.

9. (Currently Amended) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to Claim 4 2, wherein said filaments are made of wires of stainless steel.

10. (Currently Amended) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to Claim 4 2, wherein the filaments have an external diameter of about 0.2 mm.

11. (Currently Amended) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to Claim 4 2, wherein the intragastric retainer is made foldable and deformable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4-11 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to QUYNH-NHU H. VU whose telephone number is (571)272-3228. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00 am to 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nicholas Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nicholas D Lucchesi/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3763

/Quynh-Nhu H. Vu/
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